

Application No.: 09/997081

Case No.: 57255US002

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method of making a hydrophilic carbon fiber construction comprising the steps of:

- a) immersing a carbon fiber construction in an aqueous dispersion of a metal oxide having a positive zeta potential;
- b) contacting said dispersion with a counterelectrode; and
- c) electrophoretically depositing said metal oxide on said carbon fiber construction by applying electric current between said carbon fiber construction and said counterelectrode, wherein said carbon fiber construction is the cathode,

wherein said metal oxide is ZrO_2 .

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method of making a hydrophilic carbon fiber construction comprising the steps of:

- a) immersing a carbon fiber construction in an aqueous dispersion of a metal oxide selected from Type I or Type II, wherein Type I consists of metal oxides having a negative zeta potential and Type II consists of metal oxides having a positive zeta potential;
- b) contacting said dispersion with a counterelectrode; and
- c) electrophoretically depositing said metal oxide on said carbon fiber construction by applying electric current between said carbon fiber construction and said counterelectrode, wherein, when said metal oxide is selected from Type I said carbon fiber construction is the anode and when said metal oxide is selected from Type II said carbon fiber construction is the cathode,

wherein said carbon fiber construction is a woven carbon fiber construction.

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8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method of making a hydrophilic carbon fiber construction comprising the steps of:

a) immersing a carbon fiber construction in an aqueous dispersion of a metal oxide selected from Type I or Type II, wherein Type I consists of metal oxides having a negative zeta potential and Type II consists of metal oxides having a positive zeta potential;

b) contacting said dispersion with a counterelectrode; and

c) electrophoretically depositing said metal oxide on said carbon fiber construction by applying electric current between said carbon fiber construction and said counterelectrode, wherein, when said metal oxide is selected from Type I said carbon fiber construction is the anode and when said metal oxide is selected from Type II said carbon fiber construction is the cathode,

wherein said carbon fiber construction is a non-woven carbon fiber construction.

9.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) The hydrophilic carbon fiber construction made according to the method of claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A hydrophilic carbon fiber construction which is capable of wicking 200mg of water per 40mg of said hydrophilic carbon fiber construction in 60 seconds or less.

14. (Withdrawn) A hydrophilic carbon fiber construction which is capable of wicking 250mg of water per 40mg of said hydrophilic carbon fiber construction in 60 seconds or less.